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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/81, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/159), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued her advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society and continued to increase her interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012), the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (New York, 23 September 2011), convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (the Biological Weapons Convention) (Geneva, 5-22 December 2011), entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.

5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in New York from 2 to 27 July 2012. Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by significantly increased traffic and time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Review Conference itself, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, and the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and the Conference itself. Additionally, outreach and disarmament education efforts were supported by creating websites for the "Poetry for peace" and "Art for peace" contests, as well as improving the existing

disarmament education website by enhancing the disarmament video library and including all six official languages of the United Nations. Two important research tools, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the database on the status and texts of disarmament-related treaties, have both been updated to support modernized web interfaces.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 65/77, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/138). That report should be read in conjunction with the present one.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres[1] provide detailed information about their activities.

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/160).

10. In accordance with the standing request of the General Assembly asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/66/123 and A/67/169).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2011 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

[1] Reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/66/140), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/66/113), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/66/159) were submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. The three reports of the Secretary-General on the respective regional centres have been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/132, A/67/112 and A/67/117).

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of more than 3,000 copies (a reduction from the print run of over 4,000 in 2010, in line with the change plan endorsed by the Secretary-General and the "Greening the United Nations" initiative) and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depository library system, United Nations information centres, all permanent missions in New York and Geneva (in multiple copies), the offices of the regional commissions and parliamentary libraries. In addition, the United Nations bookshops sell several hundred copies of each edition to subscribers and non-subscribers. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. Furthermore, the *Yearbook* is distributed to approximately 1,300 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format easily accessible on the Office's website. The *e-Yearbook* is produced in both HTML and PDF formats and features full-text search, index search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

13. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office's website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- Occasional Paper No. 20, November 2010, *Promoting Further Openness and Transparency in Military Matters: An Assessment of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures*,[2] is a publication prepared jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute for the Group of Governmental Experts which in 2011 reviewed the operation of the United Nations Standardized Instrument and its further development.

- Occasional Paper No. 21, December 2011, *Study on the Development of a Framework for Improving End-Use and End-User Control Systems*,[3] was commissioned by the Office and funded by the Government of Sweden.

14. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued the production of its quarterly electronic publication "Disarmament Update", which is aimed at interested members of the public and highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums, linking the reader to fuller material and documents already available on the website of the Office and other related websites.

15. In October 2010, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published *Civil Society and Disarmament*[4] in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. This publication contains the statements by representatives of civil society organizations made on 7 May 2010 during the non-governmental

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.5.
[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.5.
[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.6.

organization (NGO) segment of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

16. In January 2011, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "Delegitimizing Nuclear Weapons" as part of the series of critical disarmament issues that have been produced in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. This publication is based on a panel discussion held on 6 December 2010 and contains extensive excerpts from transcripts of meetings held at the United Nations within the framework of the mandate of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. An electronic version of the booklet is also available online.

17. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to publish its study series, a non-sales publication produced in small quantities, which highlights General Assembly studies undertaken by groups of governmental experts. In December 2011, study series No. 33, entitled *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security*, was published, containing the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established in 2009 pursuant to Assembly resolution 60/45, as well as background material. The study is available in print in English as well as electronically in all the official languages.

18. In January 2012, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a new edition of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. An earlier edition of the booklet was published in September 2009. The Guide aims to inform, educate and generate public support for and understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. While intended for the general reader, it is also useful for the disarmament educator or trainer. The booklet is available in English and it is being published in the other five official languages. The Office has been seeking partners to translate the Guide into as many languages as possible and to date has a commitment from the University of Tokyo to produce a version in Japanese. Other offers to translate the booklet in languages other than the official languages are welcome.

19. While printed materials are still an important medium of communication, as access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe the Office for Disarmament Affairs is making all of its publications available in electronic and downloadable formats. A new development is the availability of some of the Office's publications as e-books which can be purchased from a number of commercial retailers and downloaded to an e-reader portable device. To date, *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2009 and *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* have been made available in this format. The Office will continue to make more of its publications available in this manner.

B. Website

20. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website with the goal of reaching a broader audience that includes both the general public and specialists in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

21. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues that represent the Office's priorities. Its front page is regularly updated with recent news of interest to the disarmament community and with educational features that explain disarmament issues in layperson's terms to the general public. Links are provided to pages archiving disarmament-related United Nations press releases; statements by the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament and relevant background documentation. The site's substantive pages give background information on the topic being explored and store a wealth of information on recent and older major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all the official languages is posted on the website. A new feature on the home page is the "Spotlight", which gives users of the website up-to-date information about events, conferences, speeches and other activities. It is updated at least weekly.

22. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of page views and visitors, traffic patterns and search query terms are recorded in real time. Regular monitoring provides data on the information being sought by the visitors to and users of the site.

23. The number of visits to the site has more than doubled since the previous report, averaging more than 30,000 visits per month. Page views have reflected a similar increase, ranging from 60,000 to 80,000 per month, while the average time individual users spent on the website has not significantly changed in that period; users are spending slightly less than three minutes per visit actively engaged with content on the site. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries for foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the front page, the two most visited sections of the site are the pages reflecting efforts to establish an Arms Trade Treaty and those related to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

24. A major objective of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is to have the home page content of its website and all second-tier pages available in all the official languages, a major challenge given the lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all the official languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily. In this context, it is noteworthy that the disarmament education website is available in all six official languages.

C. Exhibitions

25. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. The inauguration of the new exhibit "Cities are not targets" at the permanent disarmament exhibit at Headquarters took place on 24 March 2011. The new exhibit is an art installation comprising two columns of paper bearing 1,024,820 signatures to a petition calling for cities not to be targeted and for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The signatures were collected from all over the world by Mayors for Peace between 12 February 2007 and 26 April 2010. This is the first exhibit that emphasizes the importance of the United Nations partnership with a global non-governmental organization. The exhibit is accessible

to all visitors to Headquarters, who can sign the petition and thereby support the abolition of nuclear weapons.

26. A new disarmament exhibition entitled "Toward a world free of nuclear weapons" opened on 11 November 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The project is the result of a collaborative effort involving the Government of Japan, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Atomic Bomb Museums of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The exhibition is composed of panels explaining the history of nuclear weapons and what is being done to make a nuclear-weapon-free world a reality; artefacts from Urakami Catholic Cathedral in Nagasaki, which was near the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosion; and a scale model of the statue "Good Defeats Evil" by Georgian-Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli. The remarks made at the opening ceremony and photographs of the exhibit are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

27. Another new exhibit, "Fashioning future history", commemorating the eightieth anniversary of the World Disarmament Conference, was opened on 14 February 2012 at the League of Nations Museum at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The exhibit highlights the work done by the World Disarmament Conference to lay the groundwork for the disarmament efforts of the international community following the Second World War and disarmament achievements at both multilateral and bilateral levels, and that the lessons of the World Conference still apply today to the Conference on Disarmament. The opening remarks of the Director-General and photographs of the exhibit and its panels are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

D. Events

28. In September 2011, a month-long social media "Poetry for peace" contest took place. Participants were invited to hear the living testimonies of atomic bomb survivors, called *hibakusha*, and to respond to their stories in verse. Participating individuals were also encouraged to "like" the poems that most touched them. Some of the poems echoed the pain of the victims while others called for nuclear disarmament, and almost all made a strong plea for peace. Three winners were selected from among the 741 poems submitted and announced on 25 October 2011 at a ceremony in New York. A number of New York City schoolchildren listened to and engaged with the two *hibakusha*, who were also appointed by the Government of Japan as special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons. The "Poetry for peace" contest had 48,675 visits from 34,375 different visitors.

29. From 1 February to 30 April 2012, the Office for Disarmament Affairs ran an "Art for peace" contest for children and teenagers who were invited to view different age-appropriate videos online about the dangers of nuclear weapons and to express themselves, through their artwork, on the theme "Imagine a world free of nuclear weapons" by uploading the artwork to a dedicated website (www.unartforpeace.org/). The contest received 6,623 entries from 92 countries. A panel of 140 judges from 40 countries selected four winners from each of the three age groups (ages 5-8, 9-12 and 13-17). The winners in the 13 to 17 age group received cash prizes. To encourage wider participation and to support the aims of the contest, South-South News matched the prize money for those winners. Each of the artists in the younger categories received art supplies donated by a founding

partner of the contest, the Harmony for Peace Foundation. In addition to the large number of entries received in just five months in 2012, the specially designed website received 100,000 separate visitors from 187 countries, with over 1,250,000 page views.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

30. With support from the Government of Japan, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, organized the twenty-second United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Saitama, Japan, from 25 to 27 August 2010. The Conference, with the overall theme of "A nuclear-weapon-free world: making steady progress from vision to action", assessed the outcome of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and addressed ways to make progress in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Conference also discussed the role of civil society and peace and disarmament education in advancing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Approximately 85 participants from Government, academia, think tanks, international and non-governmental organizations and the media attended the Conference. The Conference was open to the public in order to raise awareness of and support for disarmament and non-proliferation. The twenty-third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, organized by the Office in cooperation with the Government of Japan and the City of Matsumoto, was held in Matsumoto, Japan, from 27 to 29 July 2011. The participants at the Conference, with the overall theme "Urgent and united action towards a nuclear-weapon-free world", discussed critical and relevant issues related to disarmament and security. Participants called for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Against the backdrop of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, all the discussions, and particularly the ones centred on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security and safety, assumed a new and pressing urgency. The role of civil society in sustaining the momentum towards peace and disarmament was also strongly emphasized.

31. With the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the ninth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 2 and 3 December 2010. The Conference, with the overall theme "Nuclear renaissance and international peace and security", addressed the issue of global nuclear energy expansion, its challenges and opportunities, implications for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as ways and means of enhancing nuclear security and preventing nuclear terrorism. The tenth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues also took place on Jeju Island, on 7 and 8 November 2011. With the overall theme "The past and the future of disarmament and non-proliferation", the Conference's participants examined both setbacks and progress in the past decade, future challenges and the expected outcomes of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. Some 80 representatives from Government, academic institutions, industry and civil society attended. The Secretary-General

sent a video message to the Conference in which he underscored his commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.

32. The United Nations Regional Workshop for East and South-East Asia entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the media in promoting and advocating peace and disarmament" took place in Beijing on 20 and 21 January 2011. The workshop was organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and supported by the Government of China and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. The workshop was the first of three in a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the media in advocating and promoting peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". It was also the first United Nations meeting in recent years that focused on the role of the media in promoting disarmament. Over 50 participants, including senior media officials from 11 East and South-East Asian States as well as disarmament experts from think tanks and representatives of international organizations took part. The workshop, which provided a unique occasion for interactive discussions between media representatives and disarmament experts on various disarmament topics, proved to be most useful in increasing the media's knowledge and understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and in empowering the media from the region to be involved in promoting disarmament efforts. Participants also discussed the potential role of new social media in promoting disarmament.

33. The 2010 and 2011 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

B. Briefings

34. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information or in response to requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York undertook briefing engagements — some 60 per year over the reporting period, up from about 40 during the previous reporting period. These focused on education and training activities involving some 4,700 participants (compared to 2,250 during the previous reporting period), including: (a) student visitors within the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs.

35. Staff members also participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

36. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and staff participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. Attention was also given to new media such as Internet broadcasting and video messages, both for specific meetings and for the Office's website.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

37. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for supporting the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the substantive office, in this case the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During the period under review, Michael Douglas made a number of contributions to support disarmament efforts.

38. Mr. Douglas joined the Secretary-General and a number of other United Nations Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors in recording video messages of solidarity with the people of Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The messages were played to affected populations via national Japanese broadcast partners, online partners, United Nations information centres and the United Nations social media channels.

39. On 24 March 2011, Mr. Douglas spoke at the inauguration of the "Cities are not targets" exhibition in the General Assembly Hall presenting a petition signed by more than 1 million people calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and three atomic bomb survivors also took part in the event (see para. 25 above).

40. In September 2011, Mr. Douglas taped two public service announcements at Headquarters in support of the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; one for its "Close the door" campaign to stop nuclear testing and the other one to help bring the treaty into force.

41. In November 2011, Mr. Douglas visited Washington, D.C., for a number of meetings to promote nuclear disarmament. He held meetings with senior members of the United States Congress, as well as with both White House and State Department officials.

42. On 12 December 2011, Mr. Douglas taped a public service announcement at Headquarters for the 2012 "Art for peace" contest launched in February 2012 with the theme "Imagine a world free of nuclear weapons" (see para. 29 above).

43. Mr. Douglas also contributed the foreword to the third edition of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* (2012), a publication undertaken by the Office in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (see para. 18 above).

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

44. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) in connection with small arms and light weapons. A total of 1,155 representatives from 118 NGOs participated in the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010. In the area of small arms, 170 representatives from about 35 NGOs participated in the fourth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to

Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in June 2010. A new system of online advance registration for NGOs for this type of meeting is now available and has eased the burden on the Office, the NGO community and the Department of Safety and Security.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

45. The Department of Public Information continued to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control and related fields, including by promoting the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

46. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued to focus on disarmament as one of its priority issues in its radio, television, print, online and photo outlets.

47. United Nations Television provided live coverage of the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations held in New York on 24 September 2010 and of the follow-up meeting of the General Assembly held on 27 July 2011, on the theme of "Disarmament and world security: challenges for the international community and the role of the United Nations". Related stories were prepared and distributed to global broadcasters through UNifeed, which enables news providers to cover important global issues by offering timely broadcast-quality video from throughout the United Nations system. UNTV also covered the inauguration of the exhibition of civil society petitions calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons attended by the Secretary-General and Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas.

48. The Department's Audiovisual Library has processed and published more than 700 photos relating to disarmament since April 2011, more than 500 of which were new images while some 170 were from the Organization's historical archives. The United Nations Photo Library also regularly updated a photo slideshow entitled "Disarmament and the UN", which had a large international following on the social media site Flickr.

49. United Nations Photo coverage spanned the full range of meetings and events at Headquarters, including throughout Disarmament Week and during the Conference on Disarmament. It also covered disarmament activities in the field in Côte d'Ivoire and in Darfur, the Sudan.

50. United Nations Radio produced a large number of programmes on nuclear disarmament and conventional weapons in the six official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili, for global radio partners and the general public. Special coverage was given to the Conference on Disarmament and to the Secretary-General's message announcing a five-point proposal to free the world of nuclear weapons and to make nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation one of his top priorities. In an exclusive interview with United Nations Radio, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs talked about the challenges that had been faced by the Conference over the previous 15 years. United Nations Radio also

covered several events commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Tests. It reported on the forty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the forum held by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna in November 2011 to discuss similar issues with respect to the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. United Nations Radio produced a feature on the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan and its efforts to recover from the destruction caused by tests conducted decades ago. It also produced programmes on former soldiers of the armed forces of the Sudan and rebel groups in Darfur who handed in their weapons as part of a United Nations programme to reintegrate them into civilian life.

51. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations News Centre produced numerous articles on disarmament in the six official languages. Some 200 news stories were produced in English and French alone on disarmament issues ranging from national efforts and post-conflict disarmament programmes to major international events such as the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit and the announcement of the facilitator and the host Government for the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, to be convened in 2012. The work of the United Nations and statements by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly were elaborated upon in those news reports. A News Centre multimedia feature drew attention to the scourge of landmines by spotlighting portraits of landmine survivors taken by a photographer with the United Nations Mine Action Service in Afghanistan. News Centre stories were read by viewers around the world and redisseminated online by news aggregators and civil society organizations. They were also reprinted on web pages across the United Nations system, sent via e-mail to News Centre subscribers and distributed via social media.

52. The Department also provided close coverage of open intergovernmental meetings, press conferences and major statements through its meetings coverage press releases. During the reporting period, the Meetings Coverage Section issued more than 350 press releases relating to disarmament in English and French, including more than 220 detailed, real-time summaries of intergovernmental meetings and some 80 relevant statements by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

53. The Department's information and news products related to disarmament were further disseminated in the six official languages through social media, including Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Weibo.

54. The Department widely promoted and provided extensive coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July 2012) and will do the same for the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (27 August-7 September 2012).

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

55. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued its regular briefing programme for the representatives of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department. A screening of the film *The Forgotten Bomb* was held on 2 February 2012. The film was produced by two American film-makers and focused on the history of nuclear weapons and their continuing impact on the world.

56. The Department's Visitors Services Section disseminated information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. The topics feature prominently on the tour route, with one entire corridor dedicated to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Tour guides regularly received specialized training, including regular briefings by United Nations experts and updates on military expenditures, the ratification status of relevant treaties and the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation. Approximately 250,000 visitors annually participated in guided tours in the period covered by the report. The topic of disarmament will also feature in a new tour being developed specifically for children aged 5-13.

57. The tour route includes visual displays, videos and artefacts on the topic, such as examples of landmines, the statue of St. Agnes from Nagasaki, the "escopetarra", a guitar made from a modified gun, from Colombia and a video on the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

58. During the period July 2010 to July 2012, the Department's Public Inquiries Unit received a total of 86 queries on the subject of disarmament. Additionally, a fact sheet was issued in March 2012, "Are You Ready to Roll? Lend Your Leg — Say 'No More Landmines'", to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April). This campaign was also highlighted both on the Visitors Services website and on its Facebook page.

59. To mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, every year the Exhibits Unit arranges for a display on landmines in the public lobby of the General Assembly, which has approximately 1 million visitors annually. In 2011, a multimedia exhibition entitled "DeterMined" was launched, featuring the work of Venezuelan photographer Kike Arnal and Slovenian photographer Arne Hodalič. Mr. Arnal's work explored the impact of cluster munitions on the lives of individuals in Lebanon, while Mr. Hodalič's photos documented the work of the United Nations Mine Action Team in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

60. The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in 2012 was marked with a multimedia exhibition entitled "UN Common Cause" featuring works by New York-based portrait photographer Marco Grob, who travelled to Afghanistan and Cambodia to photograph mine victims for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Mine Action Team, as well as photographs by Italian photojournalist Giovanni Diffidenti, who spent some time documenting the work of the joint mine action team in Libya. The exhibit also highlighted the "Lend Your Leg" campaign, asking everyone to roll up their pant leg in a symbolic gesture of solidarity with landmine survivors across the globe who have lost limbs to this deadly device.

C. Printed materials

61. The issues of disarmament and arms control continued to be covered extensively in publications of the Department of Public Information such as *The Yearbook of the United Nations* and *Basic Facts about the United Nations*. They also featured prominently in the magazine of the United Nations, *UN Chronicle*. Following a double issue on disarmament published in 2009, *UN Chronicle* included an article on the Conference on Disarmament from the youth perspective in issue 4, 2010 and an article on the role and efforts of the United Nations in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in issue 4, 2011. In the first issue of 2012, an article on the link between disarmament and sustainable development looks at this issue as the world headed towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

62. In the period July 2010 to July 2012, United Nations Publications (Sales and Marketing Section) published, promoted, distributed and sold:

- *Report on the Conference on Disarmament: 2010 Session* (A/65/27) in print (October 2010)
- *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2010*, Parts I[5] and II,[6] in print and PDF (April 2011 and December 2011)
- *Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2011* (A/66/42) in print (June 2011)
- *Civil Society and Disarmament 2010: Non-Governmental Organizations' Presentations at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference*[7] in PDF (December 2011)
- *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* in print and electronic form for Kindle, iBookstore, Nook, Sony eBook reader and other mobile devices (January 2012)
- *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2011*, Part I,[8] in print and PDF (April 2012).

D. International Day against Nuclear Tests

63. On 29 August 2010, the Department of Public Information, in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, commemorated the first International Day against Nuclear Tests, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/35. The International Day, which coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear weapons test site in Kazakhstan, was observed widely at Headquarters and at various United Nations information centres, services and offices.

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[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.IX.1.
[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.IX.2.
[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.6.
[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.1.

64. At Headquarters, the Department of Public Information branded the International Day against Nuclear Weapons with a logo that was used, inter alia, for the dedicated website and on a banner displayed on the gate at the Visitors' Entrance; created and updated a promotional flyer for a high-level workshop and a meeting commemorating the International Day; and reached out to in-house audiences through the Journal of the United Nations and iSeek.

65. For global outreach, the Department developed, and updates yearly, a dedicated website in the six official languages about the nuclear disarmament process that encompasses relevant information on topics such as non-proliferation; input from the Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, United Nations bodies and civil society; timely messages and articles; related events; multimedia; and pertinent documents, speeches and statements.

66. In observing the International Day against Nuclear Weapons, the Department of Public Information and the Office for Disarmament Affairs have relied on support from permanent missions to the United Nations, in particular the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan.

E. United Nations information centres, services and offices

67. The Department's network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out disarmament public information activities through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on nuclear disarmament, small arms and landmines; the production and dissemination of information materials in local languages; and seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions.

68. From July 2010 through April 2012, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva issued 103 press releases in English and 82 in French, including on the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme.

69. In observance of the first International Day against Nuclear Tests in August 2010, the United Nations Office in Almaty provided information on and support to an international conference marking the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear facility. Information centres globally translated and disseminated the Secretary-General's message into local languages, including Azerbaijani, German, Hungarian, Persian, Slovak, Slovene and Turkish, and it appeared in numerous publications. The Information Centre in Tehran issued it as a press release, while the Regional Centre in Brussels translated and posted it on Nordic websites.

70. In August 2011, the Secretary-General's message on the Day was translated into Turkish, Persian and Polish and disseminated to the media and posted on Facebook and Twitter. The Director of the Information Centre in Moscow delivered a keynote address on the multilateral nuclear disarmament agenda at a round table.

71. To commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, in July 2010 the Information Service in Vienna co-conducted an event to remember the victims and to advocate for non-proliferation and disarmament. The Office in Yerevan organized an origami exhibition within the

framework of the Armenian-Japanese "Peace Lantern" project. In December, the Director of the Information Centre in Manama was interviewed by *Al Bilad* on his statement at the Bahrain Universities Model United Nations conference on the role of the United Nations in non-proliferation.

72. In April 2011, the Department promoted the Secretary-General's message on Remembrance Day for All Victims of Chemical Warfare through the Information Centres in Asuncion, Bahrain, Brussels, New Delhi, Port of Spain, Tehran and Warsaw, where it was translated and disseminated to the media, NGOs, students and libraries. For further outreach, the Regional Centre in Brussels worked with desks in Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

73. Throughout March, April and May 2011, United Nations information centres translated and disseminated the Secretary-General's message for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance to the media, students and civil society in Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Burundi, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lebanon, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the Office in Almaty organized an event and video screenings, while its equivalent in Asmara partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare on an event that included representatives of the Government, United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions.

74. In July 2010, the Information Centre in Ouagadougou co-organized with the Ministry of Defence of Burkina Faso a seminar for Government officials, the armed forces, arms manufacturers, civil society, gun dealers and the media on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

75. Other initiatives included the media relations support which the Information Centre in Port of Spain provided to visiting officials of the Office for Disarmament Affairs for the training and ammunition destruction programme as well as for the workshop on firearms destruction and stockpile management organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which were held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2011. An op-ed by the Director of the Information Centre in Buenos Aires was published in August 2011 in national dailies and, also in August 2011, a "One UN Stand" event was organized by the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro, in close cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, where United Nations publications were distributed to approximately 100 Latin American participants.

76. Beginning in 2011, throughout the three annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, the Information Service in Geneva posted on Facebook and Twitter summaries of meetings, photographs of plenary sessions and high-level speakers and links to press releases and United Nations websites.

77. To combat the plague of illicit small arms, in September 2011, the Information Centre in New Delhi commenced a "Peace to non-violence" campaign to coincide with a press conference launching the India Armed Violence Assessment Study. The Director of the Centre, the country director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Ambassador of Switzerland to India and senior members of the Small Arms Survey in Geneva hosted a question and answer session that was covered by the media.

78. The Information Service in Vienna was active in observing the International Day against Nuclear Tests and supporting activities related to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. It also provided information support at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, held in Vienna from 30 April through 11 May 2012.

79. In February 2012, the Department provided communications support during the inauguration of the new office of the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs in Vienna with press coverage, promotional activities and media accreditation; the fifteenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization was also marked at this event.

F. Internal communication

80. From July 2010 to June 2012, the United Nations intranet iSeek published 28 articles concerning disarmament issues in English and French.

VI. Conclusions

81. **During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade.**

82. **Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications towards electronic formats. The two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and "Disarmament Update" and other publications are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. E-books are another area where new technologies are being explored to reach new constituencies with mobile information.**

83. **The website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information.**

84. **The Department of Public Information has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.**

85. **The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.**

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2011

	(United States dollars)
I. Fund balance as at 1 January 2010	340 913
II. Income, 1 January 2010-31 December 2011	
Voluntary contributions	103 000
Interest income	14 254
Miscellaneous income	2 759
Subtotal	**120 013**
III. Expenditure	
1 January 2010-31 December 2011	40 608
Programme support costs (United Nations)	5 279
Subtotal	**45 887**
IV. Fund balance as at 31 December 2011	415 039

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2010-2011 ending 31 December 2011. Contributions totalling $102,000 were received during the year 2010 from Panama ($1,000), Thailand ($1,000) and a private donor ($100,000). In 2011, contributions totalling $1,000 were received from Thailand.